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Corey Hutchinson, 9, of Georgetown gingerly sorts food at Saturday's annual scout/guide/Calvinist Cadet food drive at St. Andrew's Church. A record 35,000 pounds was collected in Georgetown. Photo by Trish England

Quarterly report shows

Drinking water meets provincial standards

Drinking water in Acton and Georgetown urban areas met all provincial standards between July and September.

Halton Region released its quarterly report—now a provincial requirement—last week. The report shows that all samples complied with the new Ontario Drinking Water Standards. Rural residents are responsible for ensuring their private well water is safe to drink.

"Again this quarter, Halton has demonstrated the ability to meet the provincial water quality standards," said Patrick Murphy, Halton Region's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works. "Providing safe, clean drinking water for Halton is one of our core businesses and we take the job very seriously."

In addition to the regular sampling of the water, increased security in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has been stepped up around the region's water facilities. These measures include increased physical security and closer monitoring of all visitors to the facilities. Police monitoring of the areas around these facilities has also been stepped up.

"Security at our water supply facilities has always been a top priority, and we have increased our vigilance in light of recent circumstances," said Murphy, "but the measures are strictly precautionary."

The Georgetown water system of three aquifers provides drinking water to the urban area of Georgetown, as well as to the communities of Norval, Glen Williams and Stewarttown. It consists of nine wells (Cedarvale-5; Princess Anne-2; Lindsay Court-1; Tenth Line-1), one reservoir on 22 Sideroad, the Todd Rd. water tower, one pressure tank in Norval and the Georgetown Water Purification Plant. The Tenth Line well was not in operation in 2000 or in 2001 to date. At the water purification plant, water is disinfected, using chlorine gas, and fluoridation.

From July 1 to Sept. 30, Georgetown water system met all health-related Standards.

However, the water is plagued by excessive manganese, a naturally occurring mineral which can turn water brown. While esthetically unappealing, it doesn't cause any health concerns.

See MANGANESE, pg. 4

Food drive nets record amount

Food shelves at the town's two food banks are full this week after a successful annual Scout/Guide food drive Saturday.

In Georgetown, the Bread Basket has counted 35,000 pounds of food so far and expects close to 40,000 pounds—about 75 per cent of its yearly goal. Last year about 17,000 pounds was collected in Georgetown.

"It's absolutely fabulous," said Bread Basket food drive co-ordinator Darlene Moss. "The generosity of this community is staggering."

She attributed the success to the inclusion of about 11,000 bags delivered in *The Independent & Free Press* Friday edition.

In Acton and Limehouse the drive went well too, says Acton Foodshare treasurer Eileen Dix. The group collected 7,527 pounds of food—about 1,000 pounds less than last year.

"It always goes well and we truly appreciate the support," the longtime volunteer said. "We were a little down (in pounds collected), but the number of volunteers were down as well."

Dix added the community of Acton was extremely generous with donations over Thanksgiving and that may also account for the lower tonnage.

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Trainer fourth in rodeo finals ...pg. S/L 1



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